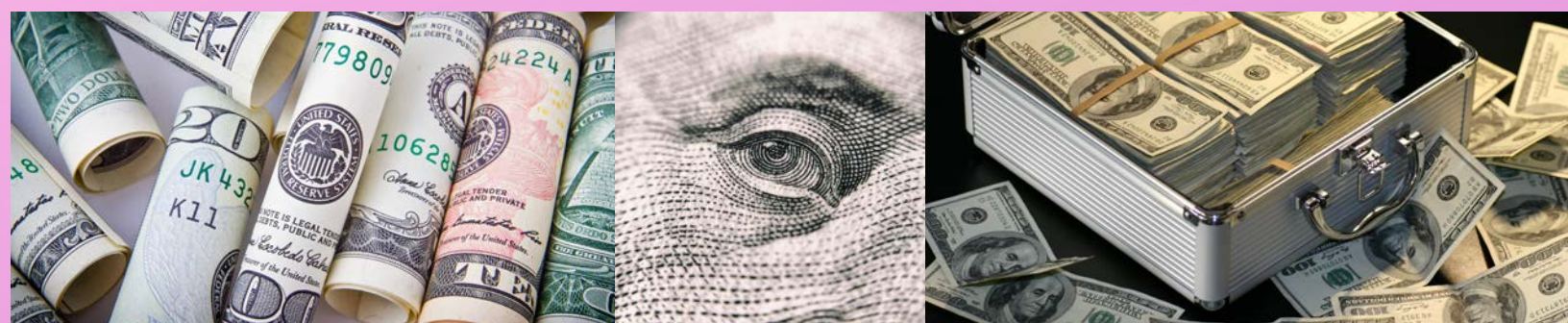


COMPUTER SCIENCE

in

ARKANSAS



COMPUTER SCIENCE : INNOVATION GRANT FOR K-12 PUBLIC SCHOOLS

As educators, we all want the best for our students. Unfortunately, a lot of districts are financially challenged. In an effort to alleviate financial strain and to provide opportunities for all of our kids, the Arkansas Department of Education (ADE) Office of Computer Science is continuing the Computer Science Innovation Grant opportunity for Arkansas public K-12 schools. This opportunity includes funding up to \$250,000. It has been allocated for the purchase of CS curriculum, software licenses, equipment, professional development, student-led incentives, and other approved expenses that support the K-12 Computer Science Standards.

The ADE Office of Computer Science expects to award approximately three \$25,000 grants, five \$20,000 grants, and ten \$7,500 grants (pending on meeting grant criteria). If your district successfully applied last year, you **may** submit another proposal.

DEADLINES: The proposal process closes at 11:59 p.m. CST on 11/17/2019; award decisions will be released by 12/30/2019. For more detailed information please see the [Commissioner's Memo](#). The proposal submission system can be accessed [here](#).

CS EDUCATION WEEK

CS Education Week is an annual event dedicated to providing K-12 students opportunities to experience computer science. This year, in honor of Grace Hopper's birthday, Arkansas will celebrate starting on Dec. 9.

Grace Hopper was one of the first women in the computer science field. She engineered new programming languages and pioneered standards for computer systems, which laid the foundation for many advancements in computer science.

The goal for CS Education Week is to inspire and increase student interest in computer science. Participating in the Hour of Code during Computer Science Education Week can serve to demystify the field and encourage more students to take up further courses and explore new avenues of interest.



COMMUNITY CODING NIGHT

Mark your calendar! The Community Night of Coding Event will be on Monday, December 9th! The CSforAR team is partnering with the University of Arkansas at Little Rock to offer students, parents, and educators a fun night of coding. Join us for a fun night exploring micro: bits, robots, virtual and augmented reality, an hour of code and more! Hope to see you there! Register [here](#)!

Is your school/organization hosting a Coding Night? The #CSforAR / #ARKidsCanCode team would like to learn more about the event. We are developing an interactive map and would love to spotlight your event! Please complete the following [Google Form](#).



CS SPECIALIST SPOTLIGHT



Tammy Glass, our team members housed at the Dawson Educational Cooperative in Arkadelphia, has been serving on the CS Specialist team for the last four years. Tammy stated "I have a strong tie to K8. It was my original passion. I love being creative and trying new things."

Her teaching career started in Elementary Education with a minor in Math, Business, and Social Studies. She also has a background in teaching business, and feels confident with helping them and their crazy world.

Tammy's first brush with technology was in her high school computer class. The class had only one computer to be shared with all the students use, but she found that computers came easy to her. During her teacher tenure, she transitioned to a K12 Computer/Business position, and ultimately to work as an assistant to the tech coordinator. She found this amazing but it piqued her desire for more! In 2015, she found the CS Specialist position and has never been happier. Now much of her work is centered around helping teachers and students statewide with computer science concepts and tools.

Tammy recalls how excited she was to pass the CS Praxis exam. She had taken the test twice before, missing it only by one question. She was devastated and ready to give up, but was given support by her mentor Daniel Moix and her tech friend Jan Rhodes. They were an important part of her third attempt. She had to wait two weeks for her score to come back and she passed!

Tammy described her favorite moment of reaching students. "When I began to teach computer science my confidence was low. I was just learning. I was scared to death everyday in the classroom that a student would ask me something I didn't know! What would I do? The fear and panic were real. Would I ever get past that? It took time and patience. Then one day I was able to answer a question from a student and I was beyond excited. At first they laughed at me and then the next day they got it without my help and did the same happy dance. It was an amazing moment."

UPCOMING EVENTS



Unity Student Events - Oct. See the CSforAR Professional Development Calendar for specific dates.

High School Hack @ ASMSA - Nov. 9

Community Night Coding @ UALR - Dec. 9th, 2019

CS Education Week - Dec. 9-15th



SOUTHEAST STUDENT TECH FAIR PREVIEW DAY



On October 11th, EAST students from the Southeast Arkansas region attended a Tech Fair preview day with Lead CS Specialist, Kelly Griffin. Tech Fair is hosted each year at the Southeast Arkansas Education Cooperative. EAST students design technology projects that they will present and teach to 5th-6th grade gifted and talented students from Southeast Arkansas. The gifted and talented students will then go back to their individual schools and teach other students in their gifted and talented classes what they have learned.

This year, the EAST students that will be presenting at the Tech Fair were invited to the Southeast Arkansas Education Cooperative to work with Griffin on their presentations ahead of time and to have an opportunity to see and work with technology items that can be checked out to their schools from the coop. Griffin presented a slideshow presentation on coding using Micro:bit, Circuit Playground and breadboard devices. Students were then provided time to test their coding skills and develop their own ideas on how to incorporate this information into their own individual projects. It was a great day of hands-on interactive training.

The EAST students all left excited about their future designs and have begun developing ideas for their presentations that they will showcase at Tech Fair on December 5th.



A Special Thank you!

To the 10+ educators that came to our all our Saturday(s) HS Computer Science Certification training(s)!

We applaud your dedication to your students and your districts and wanted to let you know we appreciate all you do for our kids!



On November 9th, Arkansas School for Math, Science and the Arts is hosting a Hackathon, on the ASMSA campus. HighSchoolHack, is designed to be fun for everyone, regardless of their Computer Science comfort level.

The competition, which focuses on reverse engineering, cryptography, programming, pen testing, web vulnerabilities and forensics is open to all Arkansas High School students. The puzzles, which are designed to be a learning experience as well as a challenge, will be presented in a Jeopardy style, capture the flag competition.

The cost is \$50/team, and each team is responsible for bringing their own wifi enabled computer. More information can be found by scanning the QR code to the left.

TEACHER/STUDENT WORKSHOPS

AP CSP Student Day was hosted by the CSforAR team on October 21, 2019. During the event, students focused on the Create Performance Task. This is one of two performance tasks students are required to submit as part of their AP CSP Portfolio.

Students and teachers could participate in three different ways. They could attend the live session at Dawson Co-op, they could attend a session hosted by a CSforAR team member at a regional Co-op or by viewing a live feed of the event from their school.

This is the second year the CS Specialist Team has provided this type of training to students and teachers. This session was hosted by Dawson Education Cooperative, with team members providing feeds at both the Northwest Educational Cooperative and the Southeast Education Cooperative. Numerous schools attended by viewing the live feed from their campus. This includes Manilla High School, Charleston High School, Smackover High School, McGehee High School, and Fort Smith Southside High School. Attendance at the co-ops included 18 students and 2 educators while schools viewing the live feed included 78 students and 7 teachers. During the spring, there will be a second AP CSP Student Day that will focus on the Explore Performance Task.

If you are interested in signing up for this event on February 10, 2020, complete the registration at <http://bit.ly/2020APCSPEXPLORE>.

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#ARKidsCanCode
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